

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00841 271814Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 W
-----060595 280726Z /10
R 262135Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6006

UNCLAS BOGOTA 0841

FOR ARA/MGT

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOCI, AFSP, CO
SUBJECT: EMBASSY HOUSING POLICY

REF: BOGOTA 77 11600

1. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, EMBASSY ANTICIPATES NINE NEW ARRIVALS IN FOURTH QUARTER FY 78 AND ESTIMATES ACQUISITION AND DELIVERY COST FOR NINE SETS OF DRESEL FURNITURE AT APPROXIMATELY \$155,000.

2. HOWEVER, AS THE USAID MISSION IN COLOMBIA IS PHASING DOWN, EIGHT SETS OF USAID HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE WILL BECOME AVAILABLE THIS FISCAL YEAR, MOSTLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER. IF WE COULD BUY THAT FURNITURE INSTEAD OF ORDERING NEW SETS FROM THE U.S. WE WOULD NOT ONLY SAVE TIME AND THE UNCERTAINTIES OF DAMAGE IN TRANSIT, BUT WOULD ALSO SAVE MORE THAN HALF THE COST.

3. THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS WITH EFFECTING THIS PURCHASE. FIRST, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN AUTHORIZED THE FUNDS, AND SECOND, USAID COLOMBIA MAY NOT OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM HEADQUARTERS TO SELL TO THE EMBASSY AT 40 PERCENT OF LANDED COST (A FIGURE WE AND THE LOCAL USAID MISSION BELIEVES WOULD BE REASONALBE).
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4. IF IT APPEARS THAT FUNDS FOR THE EMBASSY'S FURNITURE ACQUISITION PROGRAM WILL BE FORTHCOMING, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY AND THE USAID MISSION HERE IF ARA/MGT COULD OBTAIN USAID/W CONCURRENCE FOR THE TRANSACTION AHEAD OF TIME. PLEASE ADVISE.

ASENCIO

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